

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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**2011PHUPD003**

**TO:** Animal Care; All Epidemiologists; HETL; Maine Municipal Offices

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Director - Maine CDC  
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update (January 1 - June 30, 2011)

**DATE:** July 28, 2011

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Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)

## Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update

**January 1 – June 30, 2011**

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides quarterly updates on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update may be used as an educational tool to inform pet owners and other members of the public about the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.

This update provides information on rabid animals through the second quarter of 2011 (January 1-June 31). Results are based on animals submitted to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for rabies testing following contact with a human, domestic animal, or livestock (Table 1). USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance of rabid animals with no human, domestic animal, or livestock exposure (Table 2). The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies in Maine because results are based only on those animals submitted for testing due to contact with a human or domestic animal. See HETL's rabies website for regularly updated rabies data at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2011.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2011.htm).

Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva or other potentially infectious material such as neural tissue. Prompt recognition and reporting of possible exposures to medical professionals, public health officials, and local animal control officers is critical to ensure appropriate management and assessment of the need for post-exposure prophylaxis. Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax at 1-800-293-7534.

For more information, including an updated rabies submission form, see the Maine CDC rabies website at [www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).

Table 1. Current quarter and year-to-date animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine - HETL, 2011

County	Town	Animal Species					Current Quarter Total (Apr 1–Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Jun 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Fox	Other(species)		
Androscoggin	Greene				1 (red)*		2	2
	Lewiston		1*					
Cumberland	Cape Elizabeth				1 (grey)*		8	9
	Cumberland			1*				
	Gorham		1*					
	North Yarmouth		1*					
	Raymond		1*					
	Scarborough		1					
	Standish		1*					
	Steep Falls		1*					
	Windham				1 (grey)*			
Franklin	New Sharon				1 (red)*		1	1
Kennebec	Benton		1				1	3
	Clinton		1					
	West Gardiner					1 bobcat*		
Knox	Union					1 sheep	0	1
Lincoln	Jefferson		1				0	1
Oxford	Buckfield			2 (1*)			1	3
	Fryeburg		1					
Penobscot	Argyle Twp.		1				1	2
	Hampden		1*					
Somerset	Canaan			1*			3	3
	Norridgewock			1*				
	Smithfield		1*					
Waldo	Waldo			1*			1	1
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Maine Total</b>							<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>

\*Denotes an animal that tested positive for rabies during the current quarter

Table 2. Current quarter and year-to-date animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 2011

County	Town	Animal Species					Current Quarter Total (Apr 1-Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Jun 30)
		<u>Bat</u>	<u>Raccoon</u>	<u>Skunk</u>	<u>Fox</u>	<u>Other(species)</u>		
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Maine Total</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The following figures show animal rabies data for Maine year-to-date in 2011.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2007-2011 (HETL data)

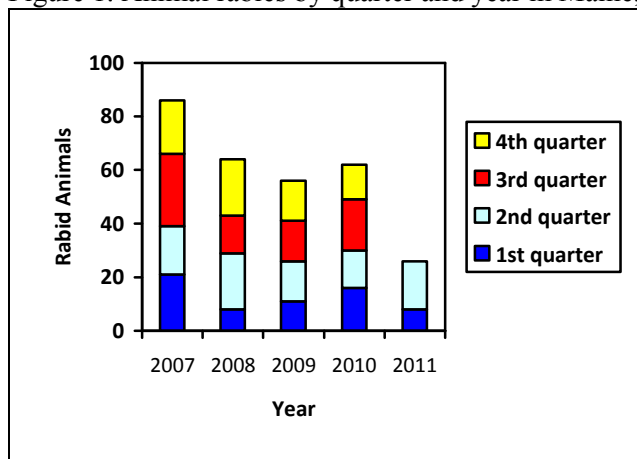


Figure 2. Animal rabies data by county, Maine, January 1-June 30, 2011 (HETL & USDA data)

